

**Commission for Child Care
Meeting Minutes, March 14, 2003
Salem, Oregon**

Members Present: Kitty Piercy, Lisa Kopetski, Cynthia Hurkes, Vicki Sarazin, Gabriela Downey, David Barenberg

Absent: John DeGroat, John Sandusky, Rep. Monnes-Anderson, Sen. Clarno, Rep. Patridge, Martha Young, Cheryl Reece, Katherine Criswell

Guests: Tom Olsen, Mary Nemmers, Tamara Brickman, Larry Shadbolt, Rosetta Wangerin, Debbie Lincoln, Phil Donovan, Janelle Welker

Staff: Marcia Martin

Kitty Piercy called the meeting to order.

Phil Donovan, Northwest Public Affairs: Stand for Children

Phil is hired as the lobbyist representing Stand for Children in Oregon. Currently, there are five Oregon chapters, and two new chapters are forming. Stand for Children is a nationwide, grassroots organization. Jonah Edelman is the chair of the national organization. State director Heidi McGowan is based in Corvallis.

Child care is a priority for the organization. Last session Stand for Children proposed new legislation called "Oregon Cares." The purpose is to establish a statewide system of compensation and training for Oregon child care providers. Funding for the proposal was based on General Fund. Although in the last session the bill passed from the committee, it died in the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

During this session Stand for Children requested legislation to establish Oregon Cares with available federal Child care and Development Fund dollars. Phil stated that in light of the new fiscal environment, the key message to gain support for the bill is framed as readiness for K-12.

He cited the success of a similar proposal in North Carolina designed to remedy high turnover among child care providers. In 34 counties, North Carolina advocates saw significant reductions in turnover. Oregon's turnover rate is estimated at 34%.

Phil questioned to what extent federal child care funds are being used for provider professional development. He said that on the county level, commissions on children and families are using federal funds very differently, including for direct services and to fund CCR&Rs. Phil believes that a policy framework is needed to direct more funding to improve professional development for child care providers.

HB 3066 represents Oregon Cares which he said was not a final product since they were running up against the deadline to introduce new bills. He indicated that the approach to creating the professional development framework was intended to occur in much the same way that Oregon's Healthy Start program was introduced and developed over time.

Phil is here today seeking support from the OCCC and input into refinements for the bill. Kitty will participate in a meeting next week of a round table charged with developing amendments. In the meantime, Phil is currently seeking legislative support for this bill and asking the House Health and Human Services Committee Chair Jeff Kruse to hear the bill before the April deadline.

Cynthia: How will this bill be changed?

Phil: Prior to hearing Stand for Children will go to Legislative Council to develop the "dash one" amendment. Rep. Deborah Kafoury is chief sponsor of the bill. Tom, Mary and Rosetta are planning to attend the meeting. The Commission on Children and Families has been invited.

Lisa: What is the substance of the changes?

Phil: This will come from the work group. What he thinks needs to happen is a change in section 3 so that it will not divert existing federal funds.

Mary Nemmers: Is it a discussion of just new funds?

Phil: The bill sets up an account and the policy framework that will be defined by the rulemaking process.

Vicki: The OCCC is notably absent from this bill and this seems like its charge. Why should the OCCF oversee the funds versus the OCCC?

Phil: The funding mechanism is currently located within the OCCF.

Tom: He will recommend that the CCD language be replaced by the OCCC since OCCC recommends child care policy. He added that new funding might not necessarily be limited to federal funding.

Kitty: Our legislation proposes that the OCCF treat child care as a priority. It's linked to the financing task force recommendations to support a nonprofit and tie in quality training to funding. Stand for Children is that nonprofit.

Lisa expressed her concern that the fees charged by the Personnel Registry are a barrier to child care providers.

Mary Nemmers indicated that the PDR will be undergoing a revamping because there is an urgent need and the deadline for the changes is to be in place is by July 1.

Kitty directed that the OCCC place on its May meeting agenda a report on the Professional Development Registry.

Stand for Children is also supporting HB 2191.

Kitty provided an update from a meeting she attended with Tom about federal funding. As a follow up, she inquired what the CCR&R system is doing to capture child care providers that are exempt from licensing.

Mary Nemmers indicated that there aren't financial incentives to draw in exempt caregivers. The R&Rs work with about 30% of providers who are relatives and others exempt from licensing. CCR&Rs use this list to do outreach to these groups. They first try to enroll them with the R&Rs. Kitty wondered about the success rate, and Mary indicated that the R&Rs do track it.

Tom: Oregon is the only state that has a tiered reimbursement system aimed at exempt providers. Some 60% of all providers are outside of the licensing system, and 25% are receiving the enhanced rate. (They receive the enhanced rate if they meet the CCD training requirements.) They do not have an on-site visit about health and safety. They do enroll in the Child and Adult food program. Linkage with CCR&Rs brings them into the mainstream for resources and training.

Mary added that CCR&Rs have contracts with DHS to do this.

Kitty asked for have a written piece regarding this. Mary said she will develop a piece on how the CCR&Rs do outreach. Lisa thought this information would be beneficial for the Legislature.

Kitty asked what the state is required to do for exempt providers. Tom indicated that the Center enrolls them into the PDR at entry level automatically. Mary added that many come to the overview presentation and are self-screening. That is another entry point into the formal system.

Kitty requested that the CCR&R advisory group report on this issue.

Tom: There are 15,000 providers listed with DHS' child care subsidy program. Of these, 2,000 get the enhanced rate. There are 10,000 families receiving subsidy, or 20,000 kids.

Child Care Division Update: Tom Olsen, Administrator

HB 3184 Child Care Investment Tax Credit

Tom gave a status of the child care investment tax credit. The tax credit advisory committee is watching the legislation to correct the existing provisions. (HB 3184 modifies last session's legislation.) It requires a definition of high-quality child care approved by OCCC, and allows CCD to contract with marketing firm to sell the tax credits. Previous legislation called for regional administration. The changes would allow CCD to select community agencies within the state and start pilot programs. Given the limited funding, CCD will start just one. The bill also extends the sunset on the tax credit to five years starting 2004. There will be amendments proposed to this about what the

credits sell for – either dollar value or a tax break. (Tom is getting this and will add that to the minutes.) Enterprise Foundation has Laura Smith of Dave Barrows to lobby on this bill.

Kitty asked that Marcia make sure that the minutes are posted on the OCCC Web pages and put into a notebook that comes to the meetings. <Marcia met with Bill Rickman, ED Web Master and Sonja Svenson of the CCD April 23 to discuss the process for updating the Commission's Web pages on the ED site.>

Employers of Choice campaign update: Cynthia Hurkes

Cynthia updated the OCCC on presentations she is conducting for employers and organizations about employer-supported child care. She shared copies of the Employers of Choice brochure (designed as a direct mail piece to promote the tool kit) and copies of the new employer tool kit.

Kitty asked if the Commissions on Children and Families are getting this information too. Cynthia said she will do presentations to local CCFs too.

Lisa: Why is this tool kit called an Oregon tool kit when there are national statistics? Marcia said that Oregon employers are featured in the publication and that information about Oregon tax credit is intended just for Oregon employers. There are no Oregon studies currently available about the results of employer-supported child care or work-life benefits.

Tom indicated that Cynthia's position is to inform people about the tax credits and to increase visibility about the issue.

Kitty suggested that the local CCFs be asked to sponsor local meetings with chambers of commerce. Marcia will follow up with a contact to the OCCF about outreach. She also indicated that CCR&Rs are doing this.

Resume Tom Olsen's Update:

HB 3411: Tom indicated this would direct CCD to ask for a waiver from CCD regulations and allow DHS to pay a portion of subsidy money to parents who stay at home with their infants. He said it isn't clear at what age of children, but that the parents would not be able to receive TANF too.

Vicki said she believed that the state shouldn't do this with existing money.

Kitty said that this is one version of the task force recommendations.

HB 2445 (bill to allow child care providers to view television as training) hasn't gotten a hearing so far.

ERDC Policy: Tom provided an update on the CCDF work group which is considering policy to guide the ERDC program. All policy decisions made by DHS until now, and CCD now contracts with DHS. Tom anticipates that a statement will be drafted that child care federal funds should not be diverted to fully fund the ERDC.

Cynthia: Subsidies are very important, but as a new way of doing business, there is the Indiana Business Partnership which uses half million a year of block grant and TANF to hire business specialists to encourage employers to invest in child care for low income workers. She said it had leveraged 2.4 million dollars to set up 45 on-site child care centers.

Tamara Brickman, ED Legislative Coordinator

HB 3564 – This is a bill filed in the last two days that appropriates money from CCD general fund to provide child care assistance to low-income students. It is sponsored by Rep. Dalto and Sen. Ringo.

HB 2190: This bill gives the director of the Employment Department (ED) rulemaking authority over the Child Care Division (CCD). Background is that ED's enabling statutes is found in ORS Chapter 657, and when the CCD was created, it was covered in 657A. The issue: What authority does the ED have for rulemaking for 657A? The authority is implicit, but the Attorney General is recommending this be changed via legislation. Rep. Kruse has concerns that this expands the ED's authority, and Rep. Kruse is questioning why CCD is in the ED. Tamara is meeting with him next week and will follow up with Kitty about the result.

HB 2584: This bill sponsored by Rep. Dingfelder would exempt parent cooperatives from child care licensing. Tamara will ask that HB 2191 be the bill for this issue.

HB 2637 originated in the House Judiciary Committee and would impact all agencies that issue case hearing orders. CCD has burden of proof on child care licensing refusals. The bill has a fiscal impact as yet undetermined.

HB 3072: This would make income tax compliance a condition for receiving a license.

HB 3112 would allow public employers to do drug testing of public employees who have contact with children

SB 577 sponsored by Sen. Harper, would consolidate incomes and corporate tax credits into a single tax credit and caps the amount that can be contributed. (e.g. Trust for Cultural Development) This bill may affect the Child Care Investment Tax Credit – Individual Development Account. Laura Smith is following up on this.

SB 359 is a workforce-related bill that directs community colleges to develop and implement a statewide workforce strategy. Senators Butler and Deckert are the co-sponsors. The bill was referred to Ways and Means.

SB 534 was sponsored by Sen. George and would create an exemption to the child care provider definition: a person who is related to or has a special relationship to the child is exempt from licensing. The problem is how to define “special relationship.”

SB 718 gives money to DHS and is in conflict with HB 3564 which directs funds for low-income student child care assistance to the CCD.

Tamara will send a summary of all bills she is tracking that will impact the CCD.

Kitty: If Commission members see a bill that should be flagged, let Kitty know. Deadline for bills to be heard is April 11th.

Gabriela suggested that Commission members speak with legislators regarding these bills.

Biennial Report – Next steps?

Marcia distributed the final task force report just prior to sending it to the state printer and a first draft of the biennial report. The statute directs the Commission to report to the governor on the activities the Commission will undertake in the coming biennium. Marcia would like input on the content of the biennial report, particularly action items under “next steps.”

Highlights of the discussion:

- Kitty wants to include information about budget constraints – what’s happening to the world of child care. We were moving forward; now the economic downturn is putting stresses on all part of the system.
- The CCR&R system is getting stronger.
- There is new tension about the state doing a better job of regulating but these gains are in jeopardy in light of budget constraints.
- There are fewer providers.

Recognition Lunch: David Barenberg

During lunch the Commission recognized David’s many contributions to the Commission in his three terms (nine years) as the representative of local government. David remarked that the Commission is a good example of what the commissions were created to do. He said that the most important work gets done in times like these. The real test is what our commitment is when the times get tough.

Discussion: Strategic Plan

There is a need for a strategic plan to finance child care. Gabriela said what’s missing is an action plan of who does what and by what time. David said to go through each recommendation and identify each responsible party and what needs to be done.

Kitty: There is no Oregon plan for child care.

Tom: There is – it's the performance measures.

A discussion took place regarding the respective roles of the Child Care Coordinating Council and the OCCC.

Kitty: How can we continue to engage the task force members in a meaningful way? David suggested that we involve task force members with editorial boards, legislators and in their communities.

Cynthia said that the original intent of task force was a group interested in child care but not within the child care field.

Health and Safety Curriculum: Larry Shadbolt of the Healthy Child Care Oregon project and Rosetta Wangerin, DHS

Larry and Rosetta briefed Commission members on the new health and safety curriculum (formerly Oregon Child Care Basics). Larry said that providers will get this through the training system. They get the handbook free when they register for the class.

Some new upgrades include:

- Integrating information on caring for children with special needs throughout (versus having a special section)
- Information based on best practices
- Highlights of rules and regulations
- New section on oral health and mental health
- All information presented with context of children's growth and development

Mary: The CCR&Rs have the contract to conduct the training locally.

Rosetta explained that the class is 10 hours of training in five two-hour modules.

Lisa: This is a very good source that she would even use with parents.

Rosetta indicated that pediatricians and a DHS medical consultant reviewed the material for the handbook. Evaluation will be done by tracking who has received it and following up with survey of usefulness and application.

Rosetta said that this project was accomplished through the work of many individuals working outside the scope of their regular agency jobs. The graphics were donated by Washington County.

Commission members asked if the notebooks were for sale separately. Mary said that the supply of notebooks is based on the projected number of the classes. The supply is an issue if they will be offered for sale. Larry estimated a charge of \$25 for the price to cover the cost of printing and the binder. Rosetta will take this issue back to the partnership committee

Rosetta said that the committee is working on the handbook for part two of the new training series, social and emotional development. The group will not duplicate the first handbook and will use existing information wherever they can. The approach may be different to this curriculum – perhaps two different levels, I and II.

Rosetta invited members to offer comments.

Lisa: She suggested two versions – one for child care homes and another for families.

Kitty asked about translations and cultural competency. Rosetta indicated there is a Spanish translation. She said assistance was sought from a center director from Ka-Ne-Ta and members of the Hispanic community. She explained that there are no plans at this time to translate these into other languages since the actual need is very small, and there is only limited funding.

Kitty asked about whether CCR&Rs are training Native American child care providers.
Mary: Several child care providers in Warm Springs have been trained by the CCR&R in Redmond.

May Agenda Items

PDR and training system as a whole (Dell Ford and Rosetta Wangerin, Co-chairs)
CCR&R outreach and exempt child care (Pam Dunn, CCR&R Network Board Chair)

July Agenda (was placed on May agenda)

Nurse consultant project (Larry Shadbolt)

The meeting was adjourned.